

**ForeverGreen Board Meeting**  
**September 10, 2008**  
**Tacoma Metro Parks, 12:00 to 1:30 p.m.**

**Attendance:** Ernie Bay, Bryan Bowden, Jake Fey, Kirsten Frandsen, Jayme Gordon, Grant Griffin, Kirk Kirkland, Terry Lee, Jane Moore, John Olson, Tim Payne, and Barbara Skinner. Guest: Dixie Gatchel.

**Minutes Taken by:** Jayme Gordon. President Ernie Bay opened the meeting at 12:01 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes:**

- *Terry moved to approve the July board meeting minutes as presented. Barbara seconded the motioned, which passed unanimously.*

**Finances:**

- *Funding update* – Kirk, Barbara, and Ernie wrote a funding request letter which was mailed to all Pierce County's cities in August. Now follow up contacts are needed. Ernie has already followed up with the Puyallup city manager. Kirk also met with Tacoma Metro Parks recently about funding.
- *Sales Tax Legislation* – Not much has happened with this over the summer, although Kirk is moving forward on putting together a committee to help strategize and move this through the legislative process. Jake added that Tacoma is already part of this process and has the sales tax initiative on their legislative agenda. Bryan asked if any thought has been give to hiring a marketing expert. Kirk answered that yes, both a marketing expert and a lobbyist will be very helpful, if not essential, to getting this sales tax proposal on the ballot. Discussion followed about the possible ways to afford a lobbyist and other assistance.
- *Other* – Jayme reported that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter statement from the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation balanced.

**Old Business:**

- *Trails Assistance updates* – The Puyallup-Fife-Tacoma connection study is underway with Parametrix. An informal drive of the possible routes has already been completed. A meeting is set for September 12 to meet with the Fife Parks and Rec. director. Kirk has also met with a representative from the Puyallup Tribe and feels the door is open to work cooperatively with them. One such opportunity could be a link to the planned recreation center at Chief Leschi School. Other sidewalks and such can be widened or modified through the casino area and other tribal properties. Another meeting with the Tribe is scheduled for September 24.
- *Annual Trails Conference* – Michael Mucha from the City of Olympia is unable to be the keynote speaker. Jayme contacted Peter Lagerwey (City of Seattle), and he is unsure if his schedule will be open that day or not. The next choice for keynote speaker is Charles Montange, who still needs to be contacted. A draft of the conference schedule was passed around and discussed. The next planning meeting for the trails conference was set for September 24 at 3:00 p.m.
- *Train to Mountain Excursion* – Discussion took place as to who intended to go on which day. Kathy, John, and Jane were planning to go on September 27. Ernie didn't think he would be going on October 11 after all.

## **New Business:**

- *Active Transportation Grant* – Guest Dixie Gatchel reported on the proposal she has submitted for the “2010 Campaign for Active Transportation.” This program will fund dozens of communities around the country with \$50 million each to promote trails. Her proposal passed the first step and she has been asked to submit a more refined proposal for the Foothills and Riverwalk Trails. *Kirk motioned for a resolution to support the efforts of the Foothills Trails Coalition to pursue this grant and others like it. Barbara seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.* Jayme will draft the resolution and send it to Foothills president John Downs.
- *Trails Advisory Committee* – The next TAC meeting is scheduled for October 29 at the Snake Lake Nature Center. Agenda topics to include: update on the sales tax initiative, Trail Award Guidelines, a follow up to the Active Transportation Grant (see above), and information sharing. Jayme will work with Tim to draft the agenda and contact TAC members.
- *Newsletter Topics and Deadline* – Kirk is about to begin drafting ForeverGreen’s fall newsletter and wanted to solicit possible article topics. Suggestions included: the Complete the Streets initiative, the annual Pierce County trails conference, the Puyallup-Fife-Tacoma study, trail awards, and endorsement of the Foothills Coalition’s pursuit of the Active Transportation Grant. Kirk plans to have the newsletter ready prior to the TAC meeting.
- *Pierce County Regional Trail Plan-Technical Working Group* – Grant announced that work on the Pierce County Regional Trail Plan is now underway, and ForeverGreen has been officially invited to participate as a member of the Technical Working Group (TWG). It is anticipated that the TWG would meet about four times, plus frequent conversations and discussion via email. Most of the work will be commenting and providing input on information provided by MIG (the consulting firm working on the trail plan). Grant said someone on the TWG could expect to spend about 30 hours over the course of a year. Barbara volunteered to be ForeverGreen’s representative on the TWG, and Ernie will be the alternate.

## **News, Updates, and Announcements:**

- *Terry* – A groundbreaking ceremony for Phase 2 of the Cushman Trail is scheduled for September 26. The September 30 county council meeting will be held in Gig Harbor. Scheduled for that meeting will be the acquisition of the Tacoma Narrows Airport. Peninsula Metro Parks has submitted a RCO application for a connection between the Cushman and Scott Pierson Trails. The Narrowsgate property acquisition is still on-going, but is in a holding pattern for the time being.
- *Jake* – Tacoma is moving forward on construction of the Water Ditch Trail, and the city currently has \$2 million in capital for trails. The Public Works and Environment Committee has two Complete the Streets presentations scheduled for September. The city also plans to adopt a resolution to establish a Sustainability Office with two staff, as well as establishing new policy guidelines to help prioritize projects.
- *John* – John is a table host at the Cascade Land Conservancy’s Pierce County luncheon on September 25. Please let him know if you would like to attend.
- *Tim* – Expressed frustration at the lack of forward movement on many of the large-scale projects (e.g. trails, alternative transportation, etc.)

- *Bryan* – Talked about an email article he recently read about a realtor who shows houses on bicycle.
- *Kirsten* – The Obesity Prevention Conference will be held at the Hotel Murano on September 26. The new Pierce County walking guide is almost ready to go to print and should be available by the end of the month. Jayme will provide a short description about ForeverGreen to be included.
- *Grant* – Phase 1 of the South Prairie to Buckley section of the Foothills Trail is nearing completion. However, construction of the final bridge in this section has been put on hold due to salmon spawning in South Prairie Creek. Construction will resume next year.
- *Jane* – Attended a Pro Walk/Pro Bike conference in Seattle, which featured good sessions on the Complete the Streets initiative. She is also working with Good Samaritan Hospital to plan a Healthy Community summit in the Puyallup area.
- *Ernie* – Met with Ralph Dannenburg this morning and discussions about the Puyallup Riverwalk and Foothills Trail connection are still on-going. The 5<sup>th</sup> Ave N.E. and Hwy-512 section of the Riverwalk Trail now has money directed towards it.

**Closing Comments:**

- None at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

**The next board meeting will be Wednesday, October 8, 12-1:30 p.m. at the Tacoma Metro Parks headquarters.**